



THE NIGGER OF THE NARCISSUS	Joseph Conrad	<p>Today, we're likely to react to the title of this novella, on whose 'sincerity of expression' Conrad was willing to stake his artistic reputation, with visceral disgust. There is a sad irony in this, for Conrad's title originally alluded to a rather complex set of meanings, implying that, by virtue of our human nature, we all carry within the fragile vessel that is our idealised image of ourselves a darker being we find troubling, even despicable, but with whom we must eventually come to terms. Indeed, in the course of this tale of a traumatic sea voyage from Bombay to London, Conrad suggests that in projecting their loathing of their own ambivalent feelings onto their (possibly dying) black shipmate James Wait, the crew of the Narcissus have considerable difficulty seeing the real James Wait behind their confused emotional reactions at all. The novella is remarkable for its knitting together of a stunningly well-realised physical drama involving an imperilled ship with a most discomforting psychodrama that draws in all twenty-six men who sail her. - Summary by Peter Dann</p> <p>Read by Peter Dann. Total running time: 05:47:53</p> <p>This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For more information or to volunteer, visit librivox.org. Cover picture <i>Copy of earlier negative, after originally captured by Alexander Harper Turner. Original image captured in 1920, while the Garthsnaid was on passage from Chile to Mozambique with a cargo of nitrate. Image captured from the jibboom.</i> http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/29357</p> <p>Shows four men high up in the rigging, securing gaskets come loose in a storm. Copyright expired in U.S., Canada, EU. and all countries with author's life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by Annise. This design is in the public domain.</p>	THE NIGGER OF THE NARCISSUS	Joseph Conrad
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